178 Panchayats out of 382 in Mayurbhanj district of Orissa to the Centre during the month of January, 2008 and funds insufficiency in working out the same scheme in this and other panchayats in this district and whether the scheme is also slowly being carried out in other backward districts of Orissa like Rayagada, Banda, Nuapada and Malkangiri due to lack of funds;

(b) whether this Ministry has any plan to sanction more funds to these districts in this session; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) to (c) NREGA is demand based Funds are released to a district on receipt of a proposal along with certificates showing at least 60% utilisation of the available resources. Funds released to Mayurbhanj district, Rayagada district, Nuapada district and Malkangiri district of Orissa during the current year, so far, are given below. There is no NREGA district in Orissa by the name "Banda".

Sl. No.	Name of the District	Fund released during 2007-08 (Rs. In lakhs)
1.	Mayurbhanj	1468.00
2.	Rayagadh	3491.00
3.	Nuapada	3670.11
4.	Malkangiri	3033.30

Shortage of staff for implementing in NREGP

1383. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the report of Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) that there is a shortage of administrative and technical staff for implementing National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme (NREGP);

(b) if so, the details including number of above staff working and number of deficiency of staff for full extension of NREGP on 100 days of employment, State-wise, category-wise as on today;

(c) if so, the steps taken to rectify the deficiency; and

(d) the details of steps taken if any, to examine improvement if any in basic consumption of poor, reduction of distress mitigation and increase in wages in areas where NREGP was successful?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) CAG has undertaken performance audit of the implementation of NREGA in 68 phase I districts for the year 2006-07 on a request made by the Ministry. CAG submitted its draft report on 17.12.2007 to the Ministry. There are findings in the draft report which relate to shortage of staff with the impelenting agencies. States have sent their responses on these observations indicating the factual status. These have been sent to CAG who is in the process of finalizing the report.

(b) State-wise details of the staff recruited at various levels is given in the enclosed Statement. *(See* below).

(c) NREGA guidelines provide that a dedicated Gram Rojgar Sahayak (GRS) should be appointed in each Gram Panchayat and a dedicated Programme officer (PO) should be appointed at Block level for NREGA works besides other technical and non-technical staff. Salaries of the GRS, PO and at least one technical assistant for 5 Gram Panchayats is paid out of the 4% administrative expenditure under NREGA.

(d) Studies have been commissioned to assess the impact of NREGA on various aspects.

Statement

State-wise details of the staff recruited at various levels

Sl. No.	State	NREGA districts	Gram Panchayats	Gram Rojgar Sahayak appointed	Blocks	Prog. Officer Status	Technical Staff Status	DEO Status	Acctt Status
1	Andhra Pradesh	19	19322	17958	965	965	2353	30	1645
2	Arunachal Pradesh	3	419	104	17	—	9	9	242
3	Assam	13	1058	—	102	—	9	3	4
4	Bihar	38	8436	8463	534	345	534	534	534
5	Chhattisgarh	15	8822	8801	134	131	517	258	101
6	Gujarat	9	4141	3898	66	66	154	76	13
7	Haryana	4	1472	369	24	—	42	10	21
8	Himachal Pradesh	4	1744	703	38	13	652	8	68
9	Jammu & Kashmir	5	1081	227	39	—	84	63	15
10	Jharkhand	22	4559	4130	212	—	—	—	—
11	Karnataka	11	1091	746	32	—	55	350	24
12	Kerala	4	207	13	28	16	225	234	—
13	Maharashtra	18	27920	8900	183	—	1200	—	1
14	Madhya Pradesh	31	15245	—	212	—	609	175	175
15	Meghalaya	5	449	—	8	—	9	3	4
16	Nagaland	5	469	469	29	—	34	29	39
17	Orissa	24	4891	2058	254	—	540	—	—
18	Punjab	4	3423	1099	34	20	53	28	2
19	Rajasthan	12	3286	2850	83	83	311	210	3898
20	Sikkim	3	954	0	16	18	4	4	—
21	Tamil Nadu	10	1104	0	22	—	971	—	151
22	Tripura	3	1040	988	32	—	129	34	32
23	Uttar Pradesh	39	32012	14905	498	—	2357	152	204
24	Uttarakhand	5	2368	463	35	28	145	23	13
25	West Bengal	17	3197	2105	327	—	468	345	345
	TOTAL:	323	148710	79249	3924	1685	11464	2578	7531

Sl. No.	State	NREGA districts	Gram Panchayats	Gram Rojgar Sahayak appointed	Blocks	Prog. Officer Status	Tehnical Staff Status	DEO	Acctt.
1	Manipur	3	—			information not reported			
2	Mizoram	4	212						

Efforts to promote research in Nano technology

†1384. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is not enough research activity in Nano technology;

(b) if so, the efforts being made to promote research activities;

(c) whether cooperation is being sought at international level in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) Several scientists from various scientific institutions and universities around the country are very actively involved in research and development in nano-science and nano-technology. Various Ministries/Departments of Government of India such as the Department of Science and Technology (DST), Department of Information Technology (DIT), Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO), Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and Department of Biotechnology (DBT) have been supporting R&D in Nano Science and Technology. DST launched a special Nano Science and Technology Initiative (NSTI) in October, 2001. The NSTI had focused on research and development in nano-science and technology in a comprehensive manner so that India can become a significant player in the area and contribute to the development of new technologies besides carrying out basic research at the frontiers of knowledge. The programme supported R&D projects, strengthening of characterization and infrastructural facilities, creation of centres of excellence, generation of trained manpower, joint projects between educational institutions and industry for technology development etc.

While very good and internationally competitive fundamental studies are being carried out on nanoscale systems, India has to catch up in the area of Nano-technology. The Government has launched a Mission to encourage research work in the field of Nano Science and Technology with an allocation Rs. 1000 crore for 5 years. It is planned to launch a variety of educational and HRD programmes, R&D programmes, establish centres of excellence, promote institution-industry linked projects through increased public private partnerships, promote entrepreneurship through establishment of business incubators, etc. as part of the Nano Mission. The Nano Mission also plans to put in special efforts towards development and commercialization of Nano-Technology, not only through public private partnerships but also by encouraging and enabling the private sector to invest in, and leverage, this sunrise technology. There are also plans to establish three major Institutes of Nano Science and Technology in the country.

(c) and (d) A number of countries including United States of America, Brazil, Canada, Japan, Germany, Swedan, Swiss, Taiwan and European Commission have sought cooperation

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.